

### **Amendments to the claims.**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

#### **Listing of the claims**

Claim 1 (Previously presented). A process for the preparation of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising the steps of

a) fermenting a prokaryotic host cell comprising a periplasm and being transformed with a recombinant expression system capable of effecting secretion of the polypeptide into the periplasm, wherein the fermentation is performed in a fermentation medium under conditions such that the polypeptide is secreted into the periplasm of the host cell, and

b) interrupting the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth and maintaining it under defined conditions of temperature and pH prior to extraction.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about one hour 12 hours to about 72 hours.

Claim 4 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about 12 hours to about 48 hours.

Claim 5 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about 12 hours~~[[,]]~~ to about 24 hours or about 48 hours.

Claim 6 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is performed at a temperature of about 2 °C to about 65 °C.

Claim 7 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is performed at a temperature of about 4 °C to about 25 °C.

Claim 8 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is performed at a temperature of ~~about 4 °C, about 10 °C, about 15 °C, about 20 °C or~~ to about 25 °C.

Claim 9 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained between about 4 to about 10 during step b).

Claim 10 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained between about 5 to about 9 during step b).

Claim 11 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained between about 6 to about 8 during step b).

Claim 12 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained at about 7 during step b).

Claim 13 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about 12 hours, ~~about 24 hours or to~~ about 48 hours and at a temperature of about 4 °C, ~~about 10 °C, about 15 °C, about 20 °C or to~~ about 25 °C.

Claim 14 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation harvest broth is concentrated prior to step b).

Claim 15 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation harvest broth is concentrated by centrifugation or micro filtration prior to step b).

Claim 16 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein step b) is performed in the fermenter.

Claim 17 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the prokaryotic host cell is a Gram-negative bacterium.

Claim 18 (Original). A process according to claim 17, wherein the Gram-negative bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia sp.*, *Pseudomonas sp.*, *Enterobacter sp.*, *Erwinia sp.*[[ ]], *Campylobacter sp.*, *Proteus sp.*, *Aeromonas sp.* and *Vitreoscilla sp.*

Claim 19 (Original). A process according to claim 17, wherein the Gram-negative bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 20 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, a hormone ~~or~~ and an immunomodulating agent.

Claim 21 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a growth hormone, a growth factor, an interferon, a cytokine, an enzyme, an enzyme inhibitor ~~or~~ and an antibody fragment.

Claim 22 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a Fab-fragment, human growth hormone, interferon alpha-2d ~~or~~ and granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

Claim 23 (Canceled).